IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0048]-[0049] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0048]   Initially, the sink 2-1 ~~source 1~~ transmits its own certificate to the source 1~~sink 2-1~~. Specifically, the control section 24~~15~~ of the sink 2-1 ~~source 1~~ reads a certificate from the storage section 25~~16~~, and transmits it as a communication command to the source 1 ~~sink 2-1~~ via the communication I/F 23~~14~~ (① in Fig. 5).

[0049]   When the source 1 ~~sink 2-1~~ receives this communication command, the source 1 ~~sink 2~~ determines whether or not the data is valid. Specifically, the control section 15~~24~~ of the source 1 ~~sink 2-1~~ checks whether or not the data in the certificate received via the communication I/F 12~~23~~ corresponds to the electronic signature of the key management organization attached thereto by using the public key of the key management organization stored in the storage section 16~~25~~. That is, the control section 15~~24~~ determines the validity of the received data by performing a DSA (Digital Signature Algorithm) verification computation process for public key encryption. If the determination result shows that the received data is valid, the authentication process continues. Otherwise, the authentication process is terminated.